

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **February Meeting**

**“Introduction to  
Microwave Amateur Radio”  
by Mike Lavelle, K6ML**

**Wednesday February 13  
Meeting Starts at 7pm**

Meeting Location:  
American Red Cross  
Silicon Valley Chapter  
2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Dr  
(southwest corner) in San Jose

Map at [www.wvara.org/meetings.html](http://www.wvara.org/meetings.html)

| <b>WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)</b> |                  |           |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>Band</b>                    | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>PL</b> |
| 6 Meters                       | 52.580- MHz      | 151.4 Hz  |
| 2 Meters                       | 147.39+ MHz      | 151.4 Hz  |
| 1.25 Meters                    | 223.96- MHz      | 156.7 Hz  |
| 0.70 Meter                     | 441.35+ MHz      | 88.5 Hz   |
| 0.23 Meter                     | 1286.2- MHz      | 100 Hz    |

## **Club Net**

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeaters each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters are linked together during the net. The net script can be found at [www.wvara.org/net.html](http://www.wvara.org/net.html).

**Visitors Are Welcome!**

## **About the Presentation**

Mike Lavelle, K6ML, will give an introduction at this week's WVARA meeting to Microwave Amateur Radio: DXing on the One Inch Band (10 GHz). Mike will provide an overview of the microwave bands, number of hams, forms of propagation, unique techniques necessary in making contacts, and photos of hams and their equipment. Visitors are always welcome.

## **Membership Renewal Reminder**

Don't forget to renew your WVARA membership. The fastest and easiest way to renew is with Paypal - go to <http://www.wvara.org/membership.html> and select a Pay Now button. After logging into Paypal, please open and fill in the box on the left titled "Name, Call Sign, Address, Phone, Email". Or bring a check or cash to the meeting. Checks can also be mailed to WVARA, P.O. Box 6544, San Jose, CA 95150-6544.

## **Why You Should Attend Dayton Hamvention**

### **by Paul Ewing, N6PSE**

The annual Dayton Hamvention is the “Big Daddy” of all American amateur radio gatherings and takes place each year in May in Trotwood Ohio, which is a suburb North West of Dayton. My teenage son Ryan and I attend the Dayton Hamvention every other year and we enjoy it immensely.

Last year was the 61st annual Dayton Hamvention. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association goes to great efforts to make this one of the premier amateur radio events.

Hamvention has something for everyone, from a showcase of the latest in gear, radios, antennas-you name it, to a massive flea market that takes days to see from one end to another. There are forums on numerous topics and you can usually count on seeing or hearing about something first at Dayton.

Here are some tips to consider if you are making a trip to Dayton.

You can save money by flying into Columbus on Southwest airlines, renting a car and making the one hour drive to Dayton. Flights on Southwest are generally less than on American Airlines and other carriers. There are many hotels along the I-75 corridor near the Hara Arena where Hamvention is held.

Yes the Hara arena is old and crumbling and the restrooms are very poor. Don't let that keep you from attending an otherwise great event. Many long time attendees like to stay at the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. This is where some of the evening banquets are held as well as the various hospitality suites. It is a great place to mingle and chat with the many luminaries in amateur radio.

There is not much night time activity in Dayton, so it is a great idea to attend the DX and Contest Dinners held on the Friday and Saturday evenings during Hamvention. There are also top-band and TAPR dinners as alternative events. There are some great talks that are given, awards are presented and raffle prizes are given away in big numbers.

One of my favorite activities during Hamvention is to visit and chat with the many DX luminaries from all over the globe. It is fun to hear the funny stories and other aspects of their Dxpedition that you normally do not hear during the formal presentations.

We typically fly to Columbus on the Wednesday preceding the Hamvention. We get a room at the Comfort Inn directly across the street from the US Air Force Museum. This is an incredible museum. Sign up early for the tram ride to the special hanger containing the collection of former Air Force One aircraft. The museum is free! After our museum visit, we get a room at the Hampton Inn near the Hara Arena or as we did this year, we stayed at the Crown Plaza to enjoy all of the impromptu hallway gatherings. Either way, Hamvention is a great event and you really ought to plan to attend sometime!

## Hamvention Photos By Paul, N6PSE



Big Crowds at Hamvention



Collins Gear



New Alpha Tuner



New\_Kenwood TS990



Tubes of All Kinds

## 2012 Visalia International DX Convention

April 19, 20 & 21, 2013

<http://www.dxconvention.org/>



IDXC is one of the most popular DX conventions of the year. If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of Ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. You'll match those familiar callsigns with new faces, and shake hands with the person you have had a sched with for the past 10 years but never met.

Learn the secrets for big signals on top band. How to have fun adventures chasing IOTA, attend the contest forum, antenna forum, DX forum, or Contest Academy. There are seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Visit the Exhibit Hall, where you can talk to the people who design and use the best DX equipment. We have some great raffle Prizes the likes of which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention. And don't forget the "Non-Hams" who attend — we have a Special Tour for them as well.

To register and see the latest information about IDXC, go to [www.dxconvention.org](http://www.dxconvention.org)

### **Conway Reef Follow-Up by George Williams, N6NKT**

Questions asked during my Conway Reef, 3D2C Dxpediton, but did not have the answer at the time:

- 1) Conway Reef is located 325 miles South West of Fiji.
- 2) Most of the funds received from donation went to rent the boat, boat-crew and fuel.
- 3) We had a large team, 19 members due to cost of the Expedition. Larger the team, less individual need to chip in and less air time.
- 4) In the video, where our Doctor was working SSB and then he threw his hands in the air, this was due to the Laptop not being like all the others. There were couple keys that caused the application to minimized. Recovery was easy if you known the keystrokes.
- 5) At no time during our DXpediton, no sharks were harmed or were served up as dinner.

73 de N6NKT



## Buy and Sell

For Sale: LMR-400-75, used for antenna testing, no connectors, 196ft for \$100 and 250ft for \$125. George N6NKT, see QRZ.com for email address.

Send Buy and Sell information to:  
het\_editor at wvara.org

## Electronics Flea Market

**Host: WVARA**

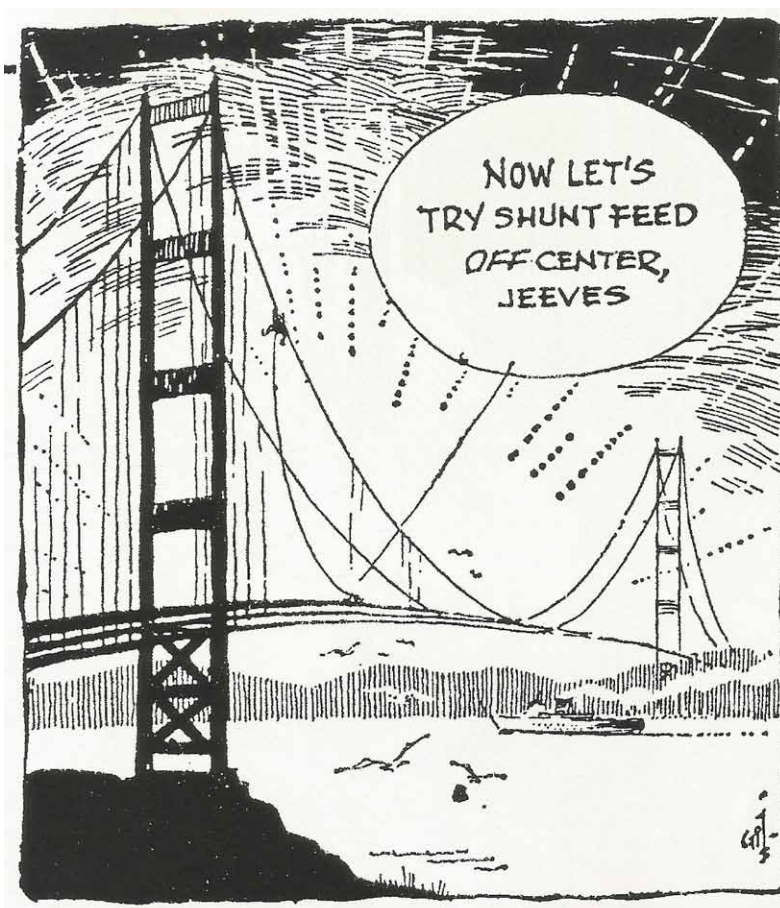
[www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule](http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/schedule)

The next flea market is: **Saturday, March 9**

The market opens around 5:00am  
and closes at 12:00 Noon.

## Amateur Radio Exam Sessions

The Silicon Valley VE Group holds amateur radio exam sessions twice monthly in Saratoga. For more information, visit <http://www.svve.org>, or contact Morris Jones, AD6ZH, at (408) 507-4698 or [mojoteri@comcast.net](mailto:mojoteri@comcast.net).



**Gil - Courtesy September 1965 QST**

Rediscovered by Tom Dunbar, W6ESL

## **2013 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers**

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**See You At The Meeting!**